

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 16-17

1. HUNGARY. ALL MAJOR DAILIES (MARCH 16) FRONT PAGE ANNOUNCEMENT AND PHOTOS OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FOR BUDAPEST. MONDAY PAPERS (MARCH 17) FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ANNOUNCEMENT AND PHOTOS OF ARRIVAL CEREMONIES IN BUDAPEST.

2. MIDDLE EAST. WEEKEND PRESS AGAIN IGNORES SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATING EFFORTS AND HAS LITTLE COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA. PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY PERESADA (SUNDAY, MARCH 16) ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION SAYS THAT DESPITE ISRAEL'S EFFORTS TO EXCLUDE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM FROM THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT PROCESS, THE CONVICTION IS GROWING IN MANY COUNTRIES THAT GUARANTEEING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING PEACE. NOTING THE PLO'S RECOGNITION BY THE US AND THE "SOLE REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE PALESTINIANS, PERESADA SAYS NEVERTHELESS ISRAEL REFUSES TO DEAL WITH REALITY, TO RECOGNIZE THE "EXISTENCE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND THE RIGHT OF ITS "LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE" TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. INSTEAD, HE ASSERTS, ISRAEL AS BEFORE IS RELYING ON PARTIAL MEASURES AND ON THE FACT THAT THEY WILL SUCCEED IN FREEZING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. THIS APPROACH, HE CONCLUDES, IS WITHOUT A FUTURE AND IS DANGEROUS.

3. ON OTHER MIDDLE EAST ITEMS, PRAVDA (MARCH 16) CARRIES BRIEF TASS STORY TOUTING ENTHUSIASM IN CAIRO ABOUT THE SOVIET'S PAVILION AT CAIRO'S INTERNATIONAL FAIR. PRAVDA ALSO TAKES BRIEF NOTE OF THE OPENING IN TEHRAN OF TALKS BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN.

4. PORTUGAL. COVERAGE OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. PRAVDA (MARCH 16) HAS REPORT BY TASS LISBON CORRESPONDENT ERMAKOV ON STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT GOMES AND PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES' STATEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO NATIONALIZE THE WHOLE ECONOMY AND HIS ASSURANCE THAT PORTUGAL WILL HONOR ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. MAJOR DAILIES (MARCH 17) SUMMARIZED CP GENERAL SECRETARY CUNHAL'S INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE PAPER, DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (PHOENIC). COMMENTING ON DEVELOPMENTS, PRAVDA'S WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (MARCH 16) STRESSES THAT THE FAILURE OF TUESDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF SUPPORT AMONG THE

MASSES AND POLITICAL PARTIES ON THE LEFT FOR THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION. IZVESTIYA MARCH 15 CARTOON CONNECTS THE CIA TO THE ATTEMPTED COUP, THE FIRST SUCH LINK TO APPEAR IN THE CENTRAL PRESS.

5. CYPRUS. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW ASSERTS THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS, GREECE, AND TURKEY HAVE SHARPLY WORSENER. SECRETARY'S TALKS IN ANKARA ARE CHARACTERIZED AS A U.S. EFFORT TO COUNTERACT WORSENING PROBLEMS BETWEEN U.S. AND ITS NATO PARTNERS. HOWEVER, THE REVIEWER SAYS, THESE EFFORTS HAVE EVOKED FEAR AMONG GREEKS AND CYPRIOTS "BECAUSE IT IS KNOWN THE U.S. AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT THE UNSC" REGARDING THE CYPRIOT PROBLEM. PRAVDA (MARCH 17) CARRIES A TASS STORY ON STATEMENT IN NICOSIA BY THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL GADFLY ROMESH CHANDRA. ACCORDING TO TASS, CHANDRA SUPPORTS THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL WILL HOLD A CONFERENCE IN LONDON IN MAY TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS."

6. U.S. THE SOVIET PRESS ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY, MARCH 16-16, IS ALMOST DEVOID OF DIRECT COMMENT ON THE U.S. OR BILATERAL MATTERS, ALTHOUGH THE MEDIA DISCUSS SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WITH A U.S. ANGLE -- CYPRUS, PORTUGAL, CAMBODIA. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW ON MARCH 16 NOTES POSITIVELY THE ON-GOING CONTACT BETWEEN U.S. AND THE USSR ON MANY LEVELS, INCLUDING STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION.

7. WESTERN EUROPE. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW ALSO COMMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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FAVORABLY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOSCOW'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, HIGHLIGHTING CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WITH FINLAND FOLLOWING PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S VISIT LAST WEEK. PRAVDA MARCH 17 CARRIES A COMMENTARY ON THE EFFORT BY SWEDEN'S SAAB-SCANDIA TO SELL ITS FIGHTER TO NATO COUNTRIES AND CONCLUDES THE COMPANY'S WORKERS, AND THOSE OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY DEVOTING THEIR PRODUCTION TO NON-MILITARY ENDS. ALL PAPERS NOTE THE STOCKHOLM MEETING OF SWEDISH LEFTIST PARTIES. PRAVDA'S POLITICAL CARTOON (MARCH 17) SHOWS A NATO SAILOR LASSOING A NORTH SEA OIL WELL, THE CAPTION SAYS THAT NATO SEEKS TO CONTROL NORTH SEA OIL. IZVESTIYA (MARCH 15) AND PRAVDA (MARCH 16) CARRY A TASS INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC ON HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW. THE INTERVIEW STRESSES

THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASING ECONOMIC TIES. FRG
ECONOMIC MINISTER FREDIRICH'S MAKES THE SAME POINT IN A
TASS ITEM CARRIED IN PRAVDA (MARCH 16) AFTER HIS VISIT
TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK WHERE HE OPENED THE FRG INDUSTRIAL
EXHIBITION. PRAVDA (MARCH 16) CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM
BERLIN ON ABRASSIMOV'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AS THE
NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR, AND HIS MEETING WITH GDR PARTY
CHIEF HONECKER, BOTH ON MARCH 15.

8. CAMBODIA-VIETNAM. PRAVDA'S CORRESPONDENT SKORTSOV IN
HANOI WRITES IN THE MARCH 16 EDITION THAT THE CAMBODIAN
"LIBERATION" FORCES ARE MAKING FURTHER GAINS AND THAT
THE LON NOL FORCES ARE FADING. A TASS ITEM FROM
WASHINGTON IN THE SAME EDITION REPORTS SIHANOUK'S
TELEGRAM TO "AMERICAN ACTIVISTS" AND THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESS SPOKESMAN'S REPLY THAT A CHANGE OF GOVERN-
MENT IS UP TO THE CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES. (THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME IN MANY WEEKS THAT WE HAVE NOTED SIHANOUK'S
NAME IN THE SOVIET PRESS.) IZVESTIYA (MARCH 15) CARRIES
A COMMENTARY BY M. STURUA CALLED "THE PENTAGON AND
PHNOM AND PENH" WHICH NOTES THE "OLD ARGUMENTS" USED BY THE
ADMINISTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUPPLEMENTARY
AID FROM THE CONGRESS, INCLUDING PORTIONS OF SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER'S NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW, AND CITES OPPOSING
VIEWS BY CLARD CLIFFORD AND OTHERS. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY
REVIEW (MARCH 16) MAKES THE SAME POINTS, CITING SENATOR
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HUMPHREY. PRAVDA AND RED STAR CARRY A TASS ITEM FROM
PARIS ON THE SHOOTING OF THE AFP CORRESPONDENT IN
SAIGON.
STOESSEL

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